

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

Referring to the various sections of the Action in the order referred to therein:

Drawings

Please amend the drawings in the above-identified application as follows:

FIG. 6: Please cancel sheet no. 6 and substitute amended replacement sheet no. 6. The foregoing amendment adds a showing of mounting die 75 fully inserted to working position (solid lines) and as partially retracted (phantom line). These corrections are shown in red ink in the accompanying copy of FIG. 6 on sheet 6 of the drawings as filed.

Amended FIG. 6 shows the mounting die (now numbered "75") described in the specification at Page 5, Lines 30-33 and Page 6, lines 1-30 as filed, and also referenced in claim 25 as filed. This therefore overcomes the Examiner's objections to the Drawings, i.e., that the mounting die feature be shown as referenced in claim 25, without adding new matter. The description of FIG. 6 has also been amended to conform to this drawing amendment.

Please cancel sheet No. 10 and substitute amended replacement sheet No. 10. This amendment cancels reference numeral 102 and replaces it with reference numeral 112.

Approval of the foregoing Drawing amendments is believed to be in order, such drawing amendments being fully responsive to the Examiner's Action, and hence entry is respectfully requested.

Specification

The specification has been amended to correct the incorrect translation "latching notch" of the German term "Rastnase" by replacing such original incorrect terminology with the revised terminology "engaging lugs". As clearly shown in FIGS. 3, 4, 5 and 7, of the subject application as filed, the clamping element lugs 52a-52d protrude radially from the interior circumference 60 (see FIG. 4) of the fiber receiving sleeve 32 into the inside of the fiber channel (see also paragraph [0041]) of Patent Application Publication US2007/0217746 A1). Thus the term "notch" for these elements 52a-52d is misleading and is therefore replaced with the appropriate term "lug".

Furthermore, as disclosed in Published Application paragraph [0043], and in other places, the clamping (lug) elements clamp into the case body 78 of the fiber section, and when compressing the material of the case body during the insertion movement also displace such material. This is not a "latching" action but rather an "engaging" action. Therefore the term "latching notch" has been replaced with the terminology "engaging lug."

The foregoing as well as further amendments to the description have been made in the U.S. specification and located in the corresponding published application paragraphs [0084], [0085], [0086], [0089] and [0090]. As shown in FIG. 4,

the lug 52a has a planar slide surface 56a “inclined” rather than “tilted”. Furthermore, the line 58a is the edge between the slide surface 56a and the inner wall surface 60. Therefore the term “edge line 58a” is correct. The edge 62a is produced by the intersection of lug slide surface 56a with the lug frontal arresting surface 68a; see FIG. 7 in connection with FIGS. 4 and 5. The text has been amended accordingly.

Paragraph [0086] has been revised in view of the amended showing of FIG. 6 with mounting die 75 added. For disclosure in support of this amendment, in addition to claim 25, see also published application paragraphs [0033], [0034] and [0037].

In view of the foregoing, the amendments to the specification are believed to be in order and entry thereof is therefore requested.

Claim Objections

Amendments have been made to claims 1-25, now cancelled and replaced by their counterpart claims 26-50 that are believed to overcome the Examiner’s objections to original claims 4-23 (now claims 29-48), as stated in Action Section 5 as being in improper form, by eliminating any and all multiple dependent claims. Accordingly, claims 26-50 (cancelled claims 1-25 as amended) are believed to be in proper form for examination and allowance.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 26 and 49 (corresponding to cancelled claims 1 and 24 as amended) eliminate the use of any trademarks, and in particular the trademark/trade

name MOST®. Therefore, the objection of the Examiner in Action Section 7, to original cancelled claims 1-3 and 24-25, now claims 26-28 and 49-50, is thereby overcome.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

All of the originally filed claims 1-25 have been cancelled and replaced by new claims 26-50. Claims 26-50 correspond in seriatim order to cancelled claims 1-25 and have been amended as set forth in the enclosed WORD TRACKING document received in hard copy from our German associate.

For convenience, claims 26-50 are referred to hereinafter by both their original claim numbers 1-25 as well as by their present claim numbers 26-50.

Claims 26-28 and 49 (1-3 and 24) as amended clearly define novel structure over the Yamaguchi U.S. Patent 6,558,045. Yamaguchi shows in FIG. 6 three elongated constant height rib protrusions 21. FIG. 10 shows the sleeve 7 of the wave guides 28, 29 completely inserted into the cylindrical holders and engaging these three longitudinally elongated protrusions 21 (described at Col. 4, Lines 20-29 of Yamaguchi). The respective wave guide sleeve ends are shown flush with the ends of protrusions 21, compare FIG. 6 with FIG. 10. Thus the front end face of each of the respective wave guides registers with, in a flush condition to, the front edge of each protrusion 21 in FIG. 6. Hence these wave guide front end faces necessarily undergo some distortion in this frontal area due to the compressing, squeezing effect of the rib protrusions 21, thereby causing optical loss at this optical system interface.

Note further that claim 27 (corresponding to cancelled original claim 2, as amended), calls for the front side 38, 39 of the fiber receiving sleeve to form a stop for

the complementary optical terminal element of the complementary connector. This stop is oriented to leave a small gap between the stop surface 38, 39 and the front optical contact surface 82 of the optical fiber section 34. (See FIG. 7 wherein this gap is shown, by way of example, with a dimension of 30 μ m). Yamaguchi '045 does not disclose or suggest providing such a gap between the optical surfaces of the connector and the complementary mating connector.

Referring to claim 28 (cancelled claim 3 as amended), the clamping elements are defined as protruding radially inwardly into the optical terminal element receiving channel recited in claim 26 (cancelled claim 1) and thus define a narrowing opening in "said channel". Claim 28 (cancelled claim 3) also locates the clamping elements at said narrowing opening and thus as being set back from the front end of the fiber receiving channel. By contrast, Yamaguchi does not disclose a narrowing opening because the clamping ribs 21 are of constant height. Nor are these ribs 21 set back from the front end of the sleeves 7 as defined in claim 1. Accordingly, the rejection of originally cancelled claims 1-3 and 24 now claims 26-28 and 49 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) or 102(e) for anticipation by Yamaguchi '045 is clearly improper both as to these claims as originally filed and as now amended in the form of new claims 26-28 and 49.

More particularly, note in column 4, lines 20-29 that Yamaguchi describes the three rib like protrusions 21 (see FIG. 6 and the enlargement portion thereof), as being elongated in a longitudinal direction of the cylindrical holder 19 and located transversely spaced from each other with a 120° pitch. Each protrusion 21 has a

projection height which is shown as being constant throughout its longitudinal length rather than being tapered. Moreover, each protrusion 21 is described as a resilient protrusion (Col. 2, lines 18, 21 and 49) that has a projection height that is stated to be depressed (Col. 4, line 25) by the sleeve 7 when the sleeve 7 is pressed into the cylindrical holder 19. When the sleeve 7 is fully inserted into its final position shown in FIGS. 12 and 13, the end of sleeve 7 is flush with the ends of the three ribs 21.

Hence Yamaguchi's constant height resilient ribs 21 do not, either structurally or functionally, provide tapered locking lugs in the manner of applicants' locking lugs 52a-52d. Indeed, the yielding of Yamaguchi ribs 21 is the opposite mode of operation from applicant's mode of yielding compression of the sleeve envelope 78 by lugs 52a-52d. Moreover, the left hand ends of Yamaguchi ribs 21 as viewed in FIGS. 6 and 7 are flush with front ends of sleeve 7 rather than being set back from the fully inserted end face position of sleeve 7. Thus, the front end face of each of the respective wave guides registers with the front edge of the three protrusions or ribs 21, and even though ribs 21 are resilient this optical end face undergoes some distortion due to the unavoidable compressing effect of the protrusions 21 because they are carried right to the optical end face of the sleeve.

Yamaguchi also does not disclose or suggest a gap between the front side of sleeve 7 and the mating connector (not shown in Yamaguchi) (see claim 27 (claim 2) as amended).

By contrast, applicants' invention as now defined in all of the claims 26-50, has a front surface 82 (see FIG. 7) of the wave guide 34 forwardly spaced by a

distance shown, by way of example, as one millimeter back to the “set-back” clamping zone where envelope 78 is engaged by the four clamping lugs (52a and 52c being shown in FIG. 7) for securely holding the fully inserted wave guide. This set-back relationship of the clamping lug elements is now more clearly defined in claims 26 (original cancelled claim 1) and 49 (original cancelled claim 24). Due to this set-back distance between the envelope squeezing zone where engaged by lugs 52a-52d and the ultimate end face of the wave guide 34, the front face 82 of the wave guide does not suffer from any distortion effect from the clamping lug engagement. Nothing of this nature is shown, described or suggested in Yamaguchi 6,558,045.

New claims 29 through 48 correspond to original claims 4-23 that were not treated in the first Office Action (per paragraph 5 of the Action). However, claims 29-48 are now in proper form (no multiple dependency), and are directly or successively depended on claims 26, 27 and/or 28 discussed hereinabove, and hence are neither anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102 nor obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103 for at least the same reasons as pointed out hereinabove. Additionally, it is believed to be evident that these dependent claims 29 through 48 individually call for additional novel features not shown, described or suggested by Yamaguchi.

In view of the foregoing, all of the claims 26-50 (claims 1-25 as amended) now present in this application clearly distinguish novel structure over Yamaguchi '045 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and over 102(e).

Moreover, in view of the novel structure and function set forth in new claims 26-48 (claims 1-23 as amended), as well as the novel method of utilizing the

same set forth in new claims 49 and 50 (claims 24 and 25 as amended), all of the claims 26-50 are believed to clearly distinguish patentably over Yamaguchi '045 under 35 U.S.C. §103.

Accordingly, with the specification and drawings amended as set forth above this application as amended is now believed to be in condition for allowance with claims 26-50. Accordingly, such action is respectfully solicited.

Applicant hereby requests a two (2) month extension of time. Enclosed please find Check No. 10064 in the amount of \$460.00 in payment of the two (2) month extension of time fee. If it is determined that any additional fees are due with this submission, the Commissioner is hereby authorized and respectfully requested to charge such fee to our deposit account No. 50-0852.

Respectfully submitted,

REISING, ETHINGTON, BARNES,
KISSELLE, P.C.

By



William J. Waugaman, Reg. No. 20,304
P.O. Box 4390
Troy, Michigan 48099
Telephone (248) 689-3500
Facsimile (248) 689-4071

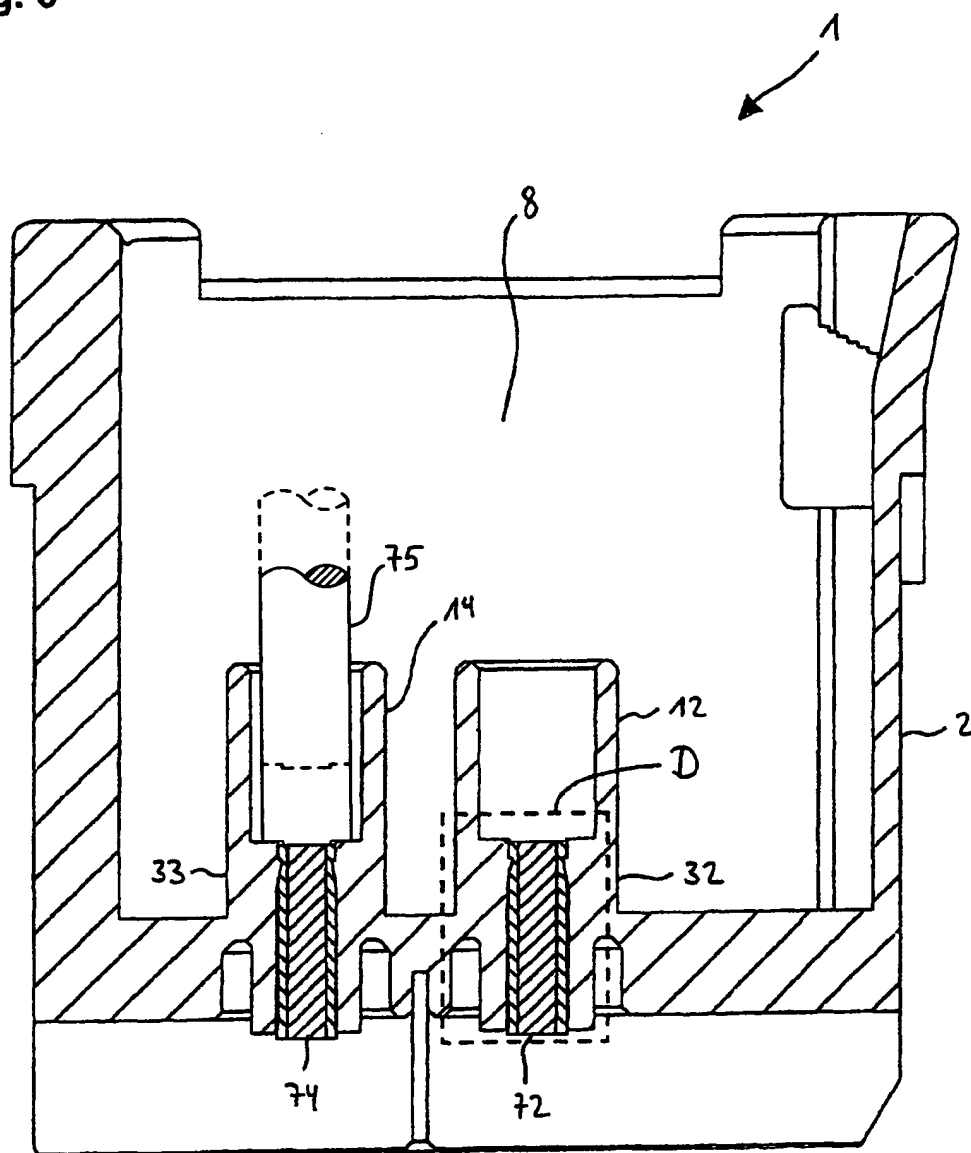
Enclosures

1. "Patent Claims" 1-25 as amended (now claims 26-50)
in WORD TRACKING software format
2. Replacement Drawing Sheets No. 6 and 10 and
Marked-Up Drawing Sheets No. 6 and 10
3. Check No. 10064 in the amount of \$460.00.
4. English Translation of EPO Preliminary Report of Patentability



"Marked Up Sheet"

Fig. 6





"Marked Up Sheet"

Fig. 10

